# US European Command

## Joint Blood Program

**USEUCOM JBPO**

# Outline

- Blood Program Missions
- Structure of the EUCOM Blood Program
- BSE/vCJD Blood Donor Restrictions
- Current Ops
  - Enduring Freedom blood support
  - SFOR-KFOR blood support
  - Other operations and exercises
- Blood Program Challenges
- Blood Program Initiatives
- Questions

# Blood Program Missions

## Peacetime

Collection and distribution of peacetime blood supply

Regulatory Issues

Readiness exercises (BTC, BSU)

Blood Coordinating Committee Meetings

## Wartime/Contingency

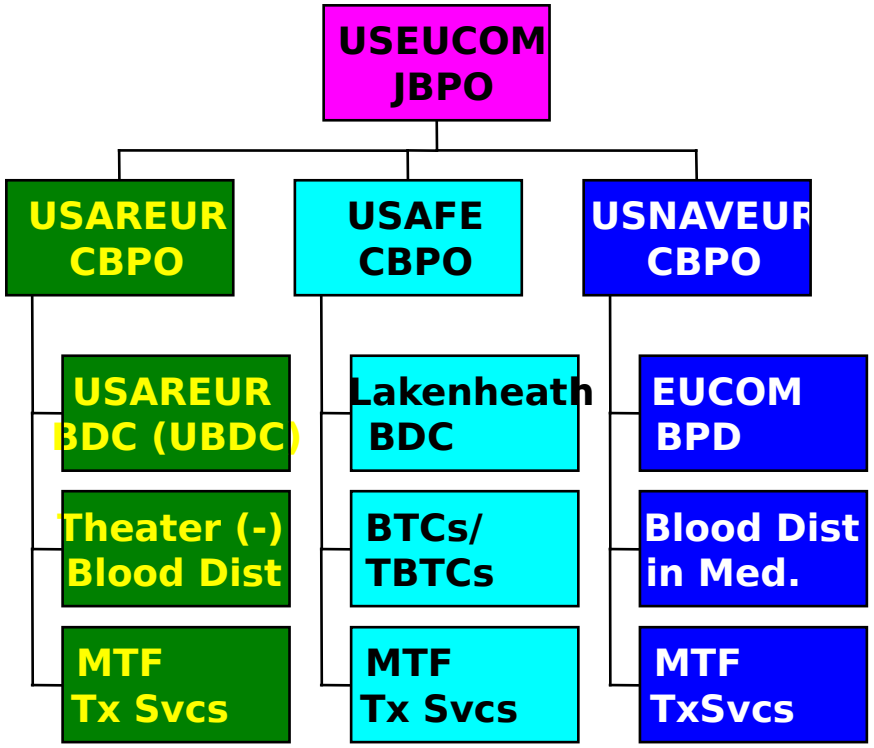
Planning blood support for operational needs

Requisition and distribution of blood supply for operational needs (Blood reporting system)

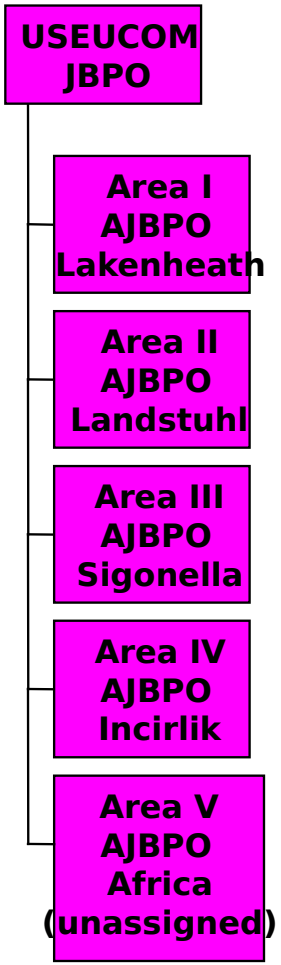
Regulatory Issues

# Blood Program Organization

## Peacetime

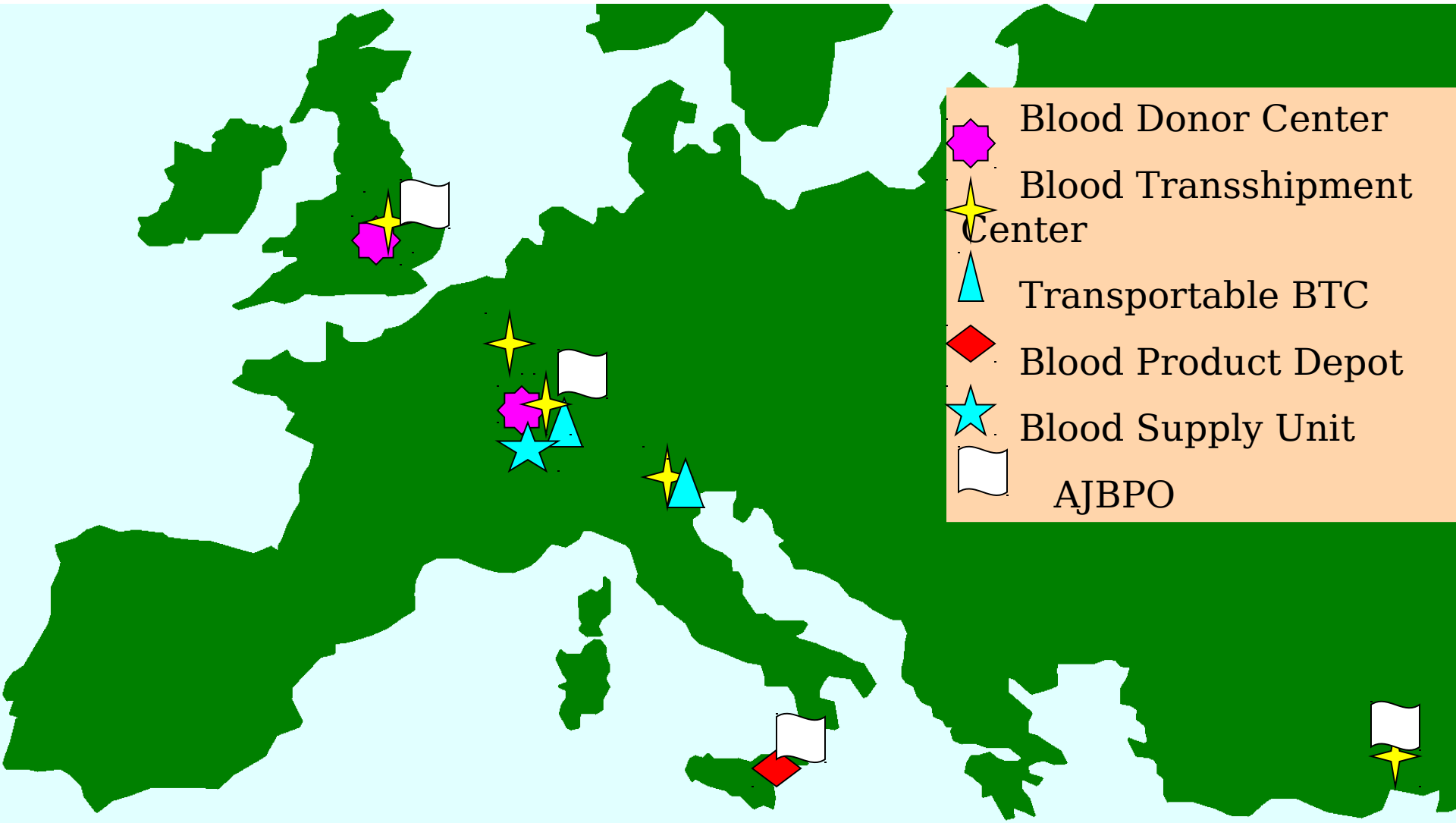



## Wartime/Contingency

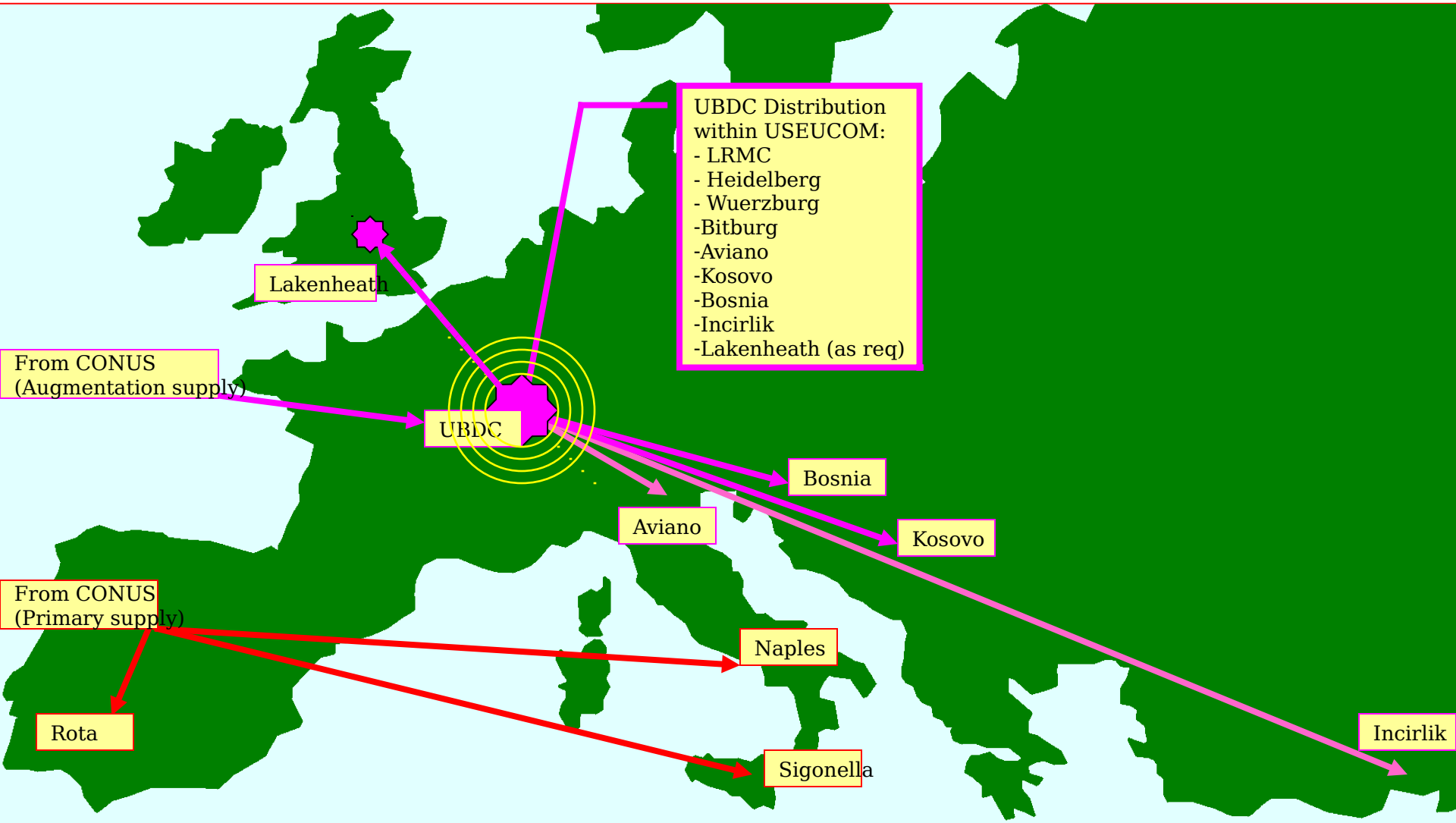


# Supported USEUCOM Fixed Facilities

# Blood Program Elements



# Theater Blood Distribution



# USAREUR Blood Donor Center

- USEUCOM Joint Blood Program Center of Gravity
- Operated with 226 MEDLOG BN providing majority of the workforce
- Five authorized billets in UBDC
- Currently funded by LRMC DPALS
- No organic transportation capability
- Supports missions conducted in both EUCOM and CENTCOM

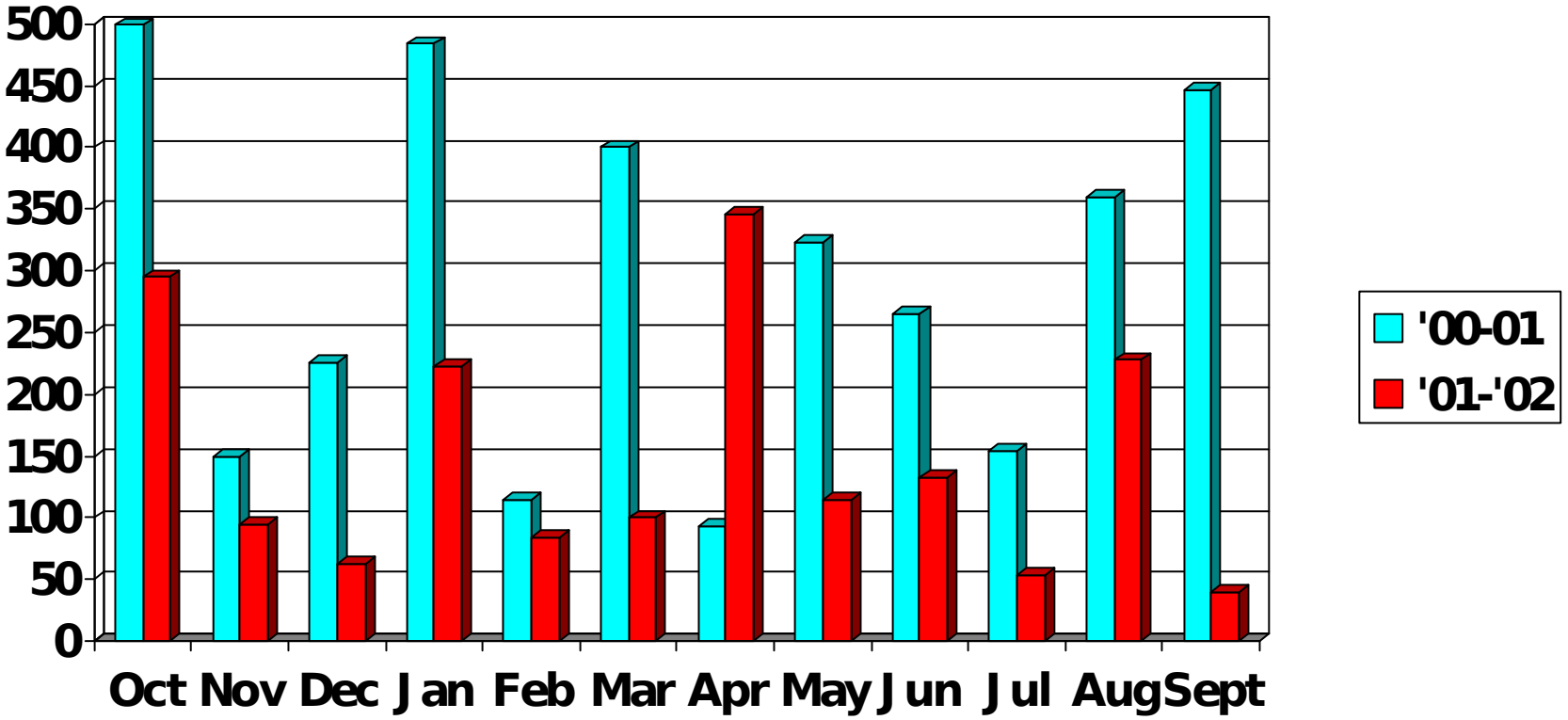
# The 226 Med Bn Blood Platoon

- Currently staffs the USAREUR BDC
- Best trained blood platoon in the Army
- Performs its go-to-war mission every day
- ASBBC-EUR Joint Donor Center Concept
  - Blood program insurance against deployment
  - Reduces pressure on personnel
  - Increases opportunity for training within BN
  - Scope of capability under Service review

# BSE and the EUCOM Blood Supply

- **Present ban on all blood donors who have:**
  - **Spent > 3 months in the UK from 1980 to 1996,**
  - **or, received a blood transfusion in the UK, 1980 to present,**
  - **or, spent > 5 years in Western Europe (non-DoD) from 1980 to present (applies to DoD after 1996),**
  - **or, spent > 6 months (DoD) in Western Europe 1980 to 1996**
- **Implemented on 29 Oct 01**
- **Estimated 25-30% loss of EUCOM**

# Oct-Sept ’01/’02 Collections




**Total Collections ’01 - 3516**

**Total Collections ’02 - 1773**

# Monthly Blood Support Needs

| ORGANIZATION | RBC INVENTORY LEVEL | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | O+ | O= | A+ | A= | B+ | B= | TOTAL |
| Landstuhl Regional Medical Center | 10 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 31 |
| Heidelberg MEDDAC | 6 | 2 | 4 | - | - | - | 12 |
| 67th CSH / Wuerzburg MEDDAC | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | - | - | 12 |
| 31st MDSS, Aviano AB | 3 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | 8 |
| 39th MDSS, Incirlik AB | 8 | 2 | 4 | - | - | - | 14 |
| 52nd MDSS, Bitburg AB | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | - | - | 12 |
| *U.S. Naval Hospital, Naples | 4 | 2 | 4 | - | - | - | 10 |
| *U.S. Naval Hospital, Rota | 4 | 2 | 4 | - | - | - | 10 |
| *U.S. Naval Hospital, Sigonella | 4 | 2 | 4 | - | - | - | 10 |
| *U.S Navy ships afloat | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| #Contingency stock | 30 | 5 | 15 | - | - | - | 50 |
| #Deployed medical elements (current) | 45 | 15 | 30 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 110 |
| **Total baseline inventory (current)** | **127** | **39** | **86** | **16** | **12** | **4** | **284** |
| NASA | Each launch: 6 type O units per alternate landing site | | | | | | |

*Monthly average provided above what is received directly from the US

#Determined by the USEUCOM JBPO to support current operations. Subject to change.

# Annual Support Shipments by Facility Oct '01-Sept '02

- **Wuerzburg - 346**
- **Heidelberg – 334**
- **Landstuhl – 717**
- **Lakenheath – 62**
- **Bitburg – 438**
- **Incirlik – 1808 (facility support and OEF)**
- **Aviano – 183**
- **Naples – 147 (facility and ship support)**
- **Rota – 53**
- **Sigonella - 98 (facility and ship support)**
- **Deployed units and exercises – 1950**
- **Total EUCOM Blood Program Requirements – 6136 (against 1773 total theater collections)**

# Current Ops - Blood Status

- 8617 units shipped through EUCOM in support of Operation Enduring Freedom
- 520 units to SFOR, 753 units to KFOR, Oct ’01-’02
- A minimum of 50 available contingency units stored at USAREUR BDC
- Ongoing theater collection mission
- More than 250 units maintained at ASWBPL (Maguire AFB, NJ)
- CONUS contingency blood system in place to surge if necessary

# Other Operations/Exercises

- Operation Focus Relief
  - Three rotations of soldier training in Nigeria
  - 20-30 units per rotation
  - Completed in December ‘01
- Operation Avid Recovery
  - Ordnance disposal assistance in Nigeria
  - 20 units deployed and stored during operation
  - Completed in April ’02
- Georgia Train and Equip
  - 10 units shipped began in August ’02 with resupply every 3 weeks (via DHL) for 21 months
- Exercises
  - BTC exercise - annual requirement (USAFE)
  - Bright Star
  - MEDCEUR ’02, Lithuania
  - 226 MEDLOG BN FTX and EXEVAL

# Blood Program Challenges

- Second Blood Bank Officer needed to augment EUCOM staff, one officer in theater is inadequate to meet all clinical and operational mission requirements
- Theater donor center operated with borrowed manpower (226 MEDLOG BN)
- 30-50% of previous donor population now indefinitely deferred (Mad Cow deferral)
- Increased OPTEMPO limits availability of remaining eligible donors to donate

# Challenges (cont'd)

- **Command support and incentives for donor participation must increase for program to remain viable**
- **No SIPRNET access at present for classified operations from Landstuhl**
- **Limited inter and intra theater mobility by JBPO due to LRMC DPALS blood officer availability demands**

# Shipping Challenges Throughout EUCOM

- **Shipments sent through EUCOM airheads with no wet or dry ice making capability**
  **- Local command directed pre-positioned bags of wet ice to meet requirement**
  **- Dry ice acquired from external commercial sources**
- **Shipments via commercial carrier encounter customs issues**
  **- BTC exercise shipment held 7 days in Turkish customs, units (simulated) ruined**
  **- Georgia T&E held in Georgia customs**

# Initiatives

- **Increase Collections in Theater**

**- USAMEDCOM funds USAREUR Blood Donor Center (UBDC) with 165K per year for 5 years for hiring personnel**
**- Armed Services Blood Program Office (ASBPO) to provide UBDC with contracted donor recruiter and five phlebotomists for 1-3 years (local hires)**
**- TRICARE-Europe data call identified catchment areas with greatest ratio of eligible donors**
**- Semi-annual Bosnia blood drive under negotiation**
**- Monthly TDY drives to largest populations in Germany (funding TBD)**
**- Donor testing contract by Bavarian Red**

# Initiatives (cont'd)

- **USEUCOM Joint Blood Program Crisis Response Deployment Package (Equipment set for deploying surgical elements without portable blood refrigerators)**

  **- Portable blood refrigerator to store up to 60 red cells**
  **- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for field blood operations**
  **- SOP for emergency blood collections**
  **- Packet of forms for storage, temperature, maintenance, accountability, transfusion and collection**
  **- Stored at LRMC for rapid issue to deploying unit prior to Ramstein departure**
  **- Presently evaluating funding options**

# Questions?